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**DeNUCCI TO PURSUE CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS
ON MEDICAID 'BORDER FRAUD'**

State Auditor Joe DeNucci and his Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) will pursue criminal prosecutions of Medicaid "border fraud" against eight individuals who received an estimated \$250,000 in MassHealth benefits while living out of state. DeNucci will refer these cases to the District Attorney's offices in four counties for their review.

As many as 80 other cases of "border fraud" are under investigation by DeNucci's BSI unit. These cases involve several million dollars in cash assistance and medical benefits paid for by Massachusetts taxpayers.

This marks the beginning of a full-scale initiative by DeNucci's BSI unit to fight "border fraud" and to stop millions of dollars going to ineligible recipients. These individuals have knowingly misrepresented their residence in order to obtain benefits funded by Massachusetts.

"With Medicaid costs skyrocketing, we must work to ensure that every dollar spent goes for the purposes intended and to the people who are eligible," DeNucci said. "We must accelerate our efforts to identify and eliminate public assistance fraud."

Fighting "border fraud" is one aspect of DeNucci's BSI's agenda. In the last year, the unit has identified over \$3 million in fraudulently obtained cash assistance and Medicaid benefits.

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